

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1

Applicant Name: Harvey Zion

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Author Name:

Lawfirm Name:

Contact Name: applicant_name

Contact Email: hzion@nidlink.com

Address Line 1: 4301 N. Ramsey Rd. A3-22

Address Line 2:

City: Coeur d'Alene

State: ID ☒

Zip Code: 83815 Postal Code: 0424

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Federal Communications Commission

August 17 1998

Re: NPRM, Restructure of Amateur Radio License Procedure.

Dear Sir or Madam:

First of all I would like to thank the FCC for requesting input from the Amateur Radio Community, and allowing us ample time to respond. I can see a need for such an effort And will forward some of my ideas.

The major issue, as I see it.

The Morse Code requirements in the license procedure.

I think it is VERY important to maintain the Morse Code requirement in obtaining a An amateur radio license to qualify to work in the HF bands. Even though Morse Code has been dropped as the mode of Communication from many fields. It is a basic part of ham radio. Ham radio is a hobby. A means to learn and use new skills. Morse code is a skill. It is important for ham radio to maintain the old with the new. It is part of our heritage, and history. It always should be a part of Amateur Radio. With that in mind let us approach the recommendations you have put forth in that regard.

I would agree with doing away with the Novice license, and combining into one Technician license class. To allocate the present novice portion of the HF bands to the SSB band plan. To allow the present novice and technician plus license holders to operate anywhere in the general license cw code portions of the 80,40,15 and 10 meter bands. 200 watts maximum power. No HF SSB privileges.

The General Class License would be the entry level to operate in the HF bands. It is absolutely important that the entry to this general license require passing a 13 word per minute morse code test. The said test be of the fill in or solid one minute copy to pass the required 70% grade. Doing away with the multiple choice questions.

The problem of the abuse of the medical waiver for code testing. I would suggest that those seeking a waiver of the 13 wpm be required to pass a 5 wpm test. Submitting a medical waiver for the 13 wpm portion. The waiver be accompanied with a written letter from the physician explaining the physical problem the applicant has to make the waiver necessary. The written portion of this general license remain the same level of difficulty. The advanced class requirements to remain the same. It could be considered to eliminate this class license, and join with just one extra class license. There by making just three levels of amateur licenses .

The extra class license. I would consider dropping the 20 wpm morse code requirement in lieu of a much more difficult written examination.

Allowing an advanced class volunteer examiner to administer amateur examinations through the general class license is agreeable.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely

Harvey L. Zion Jr. K7VZ

4301 N.Ramsey Rd. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815 - hzion@nidlink.com